



# COURTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

Court Capital Projects Electronic Newsletter  
Winter 2009



## Massachusetts Trial Court - Chief Justice for Administration and Management Robert A. Mulligan

*"Courthouse Construction" has been developed by the Capital Projects team of the Trial Court to provide regular updates on new construction, renovations, planning and development. Court Capital Projects partners with Commissioner David B. Perini and the Commonwealth's Division of Capital Asset Management to upgrade court infrastructure statewide. Several of the projects highlighted in this issue require authorization of funds included for court facility improvements in M.G.L. Chapter 304 of the Acts of 2008, signed by Governor Patrick in August.*

## New Fall River Trial Court

**Construction continues on state's first LEED-certified courthouse**



Design concept for the Fall River Courthouse

Scheduled to open by early 2010, the Fall River Trial Court will be the first courthouse constructed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to incorporate LEED certification standards into its development and design. This courthouse will have a LEED Silver rating.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating

System™ encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria. Introduced in 1998, LEED rating systems are based on a checklist of 69 'points' within six categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy & atmosphere, materials & resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation & design process. To achieve a LEED silver rating, a building must satisfy at least 33 points.

Construction on the 153,000 square foot Fall River courthouse designed by Finegold Alexander & Associates began in October 2007. The new building will serve the Superior and District Courts. Masonry has been completed on the North and East facades and continues on the South and West facades. The roof is nearly complete with the terminations at incomplete areas temporarily sealed. Temporary weather protection and heat have been

installed so that the interior walls can continue to be installed throughout the winter. The electrical transformer has been delivered to the site and set on the equipment pad. The electricians are working on the wiring and equipment required to turn on permanent power. Ductwork, piping, wiring and sprinkler installations are proceeding on all levels.



Front view of Fall River Trial Court under construction

## J. Michael Ruane Judicial Center

**Move of historic church serves as project cornerstone**

*Discovery Channel to complete a documentary on the move process... for eventual world wide broadcast*

The 190,000 square foot J. Michael Ruane Judicial Center is now under construction in Salem. This courthouse, designed by Goody Clancy Architects, is scheduled for completion in late Fall of 2011 and will serve the Superior Court, District Court, Housing Court and the Juvenile Court. In addition, this \$108 million facility will accommodate a satellite office for the Essex County District Attorney, space for the Grand Jury and several support functions.



J. Michael Ruane Judicial Center  
Federal Street View

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## Ruane Judicial Center, Continued from Page 1

A unique aspect of the project has been the acquisition of the historic 204-year-old former First Baptist Church, which will be renovated as the new home for the Essex County Law Library. This 7700-square-foot, two-story brick structure was moved in early January from its current location to a new site at the corner of North and Federal streets. The move was



Church rests on support beams prior to January move.

needed to create sufficient new space for the main court building. Moving the former church was a major project in itself, requiring the services of a specialized building move contractor and extensive site preparation.

The size of the church building and the scope of the move have attracted the attention of producers from the Discovery Channel. The producers are preparing a documentary on the move process for eventual world-wide broadcast next year.

Phase II of the Salem master plan calls for complete renovation of the existing Probate & Family Court Department facilities.

When completed, the LEED-certified Ruane Judicial Center will be a mix of old and new spaces, dedicated to serving the needs of Essex County well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



Carrying beams supported the entire church structure after the original foundation was removed.



Underside of the church prior to move, shows wooden cribbing, hydraulic jacks and supporting framework.

## New Taunton Trial Court Demolition and excavation work underway



Courthouse approach and entry view

Construction of the new 146,000 square foot Taunton Trial Court began in August and should be substantially complete in early 2011

as another LEED-certified courthouse. Designed by Leers Weinzapfel, the building will have eight courtrooms and be the new home for the District, Juvenile, Housing and Probate & Family Courts. The historic Taunton Superior Courthouse would be renovated in a future phase of the project. In July, the Walgreens, formerly at 40 Broadway, was demolished to make way for the new building. Site work has begun in the former parking lot adjacent to the existing county courthouses. Building excavation continues with the removal of

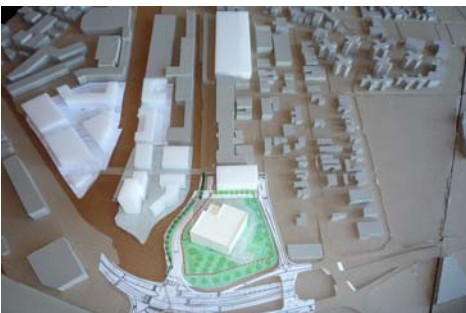


Site work underway for new Taunton courthouse

old foundations discovered on the Broadway side of the site. Underground utility work continues with sewage and drainage connections to Court Street.

## New Lowell Trial Court Potential "Zero Net Energy" building in planning phase

Site acquisition for the new Lowell Trial Court was completed in FY2008 in the Hamilton Canal District for this potential Zero Net



Site Model for proposed Lowell Trial Court

Energy project, which requires spending approval. The court, designed by Finegold Alexander & Associates, will have 246,000 square feet to house the District, Juvenile, Probate & Family and Superior Court departments. Construction would begin in 2012, after site demolition and study completion in 2009 and design in 2010.

This courthouse is being considered as a pilot zero net energy site, a term applied to a building with a net energy consumption of zero over a typical year. This would be accomplished using wind turbines, solar panels and geothermal sources to generate all of the building's energy needs.

Zero net energy buildings are gaining considerable interest as a means to cut greenhouse gas emissions and to conserve resources.



Aerial Photo of Lowell Trial Court site



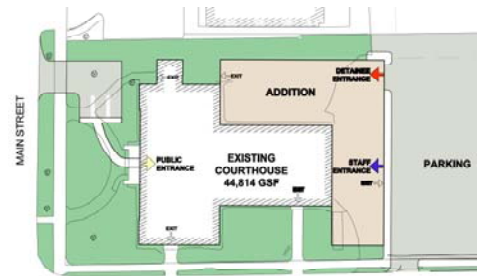
## Renovation and Expansion Proposed for Greenfield

Plans to upgrade the Greenfield Trial Court are being developed to improve access and security pending spending approval. The existing



Greenfield Trial Court

44,800 square foot building houses the Superior, District and Probate and Family Courts and the Law Library. A proposed addition would provide a secure detainee holding cell area, an interior detention vehicle Sallyport, three newly constructed courtrooms and one renovated existing courtroom. The addition would expand transaction offices for the Superior, District and Probate and Family Courts and provide office space for the Housing Court. The size of this addition will be determined by the study being completed by EarthTech Architects.



Proposed Site Plan

## Court Renovations: Partial List of Other Projects Underway

### Projects in Study Phase

Dudley District Court  
Northampton Probate & Family Court  
Falmouth District Court  
New Bedford Probate & Family Court

### Projects in Design Phase

Berkshire Superior Court  
Lynn District Court  
Western Worcester District Court  
Somerville District Court  
Chief Justice Joseph F. Feeney Courthouse

### Projects in Construction Phase

Framingham District Court  
Northampton Superior and District Courts  
Boston Municipal Court—Roxbury Division  
Malden District Court  
Springfield Housing and Juvenile Courts  
Chicopee District Court

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Courtroom Provides High-Tech Features

The new Worcester Trial Court houses a unique courtroom where 21st century trial management and practice are fully supported by state-of-the-art technology including LCD televisions, enhanced sound systems, and video display capacity. The evidence presentation system allows for display of documents, photographs and video throughout the courtroom on monitors located at the jury box, behind the witness stand, and in the spectator area. Each of our newly constructed courtrooms will contain a similar courtroom with infrastructure in place to upgrade additional courtrooms as budgets allow.



Flat panel televisions mounted on walls in unique Worcester Trial Court courtroom.



New system provides jurors with information at their fingertips.

Michael J. Jordan, Director  
Administrative Office of the Trial Court - Court Capital Projects  
3 Center Plaza, Ninth Floor, Boston, MA 02108

Phone: (617) 742-8383  
Fax: (617) 523-1790

For more info, please visit <http://www.mass.gov/courts/admin/courtcapitalprojects.html>

